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COMMUNITY



Illinois

COALITION
—FOR—
COMMUNITY
SERVICES

*Partnerships Uniting Communities
for Youth and Families*

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WELCOME TO THE ILLINOIS COALITION FOR COMMUNITY SERVICES

The Illinois Coalition For Community Services (ICCS) is a unique, not-for-profit community service organization. ICCS staff are committed to building partnerships between youth, families and communities to help improve the quality of life in Illinois. To achieve this goal, ICCS conducts the following programs:

- ❖ **Community Development Program** - Assists and supports community residents in developing grassroots committees of volunteers to address local issues. The ICCS Community Development Program covers 85 downstate counties. (See inside panel for additional information on this program.)
- ❖ **Comprehensive Community-Based Youth Services Program** - Provides aid and counseling to youth and their families in crisis situations. Services include 24-hour crisis intervention, family preservation/reunification, temporary placement, individual and family counseling, advocacy, service brokerage, case management and referral. (ICCS operates this program in Coles, Clark, Cumberland, Douglas, Edgar, Moultrie and Shelby Counties only)

THE ICCS FAMILY

The ICCS family is headquartered in Springfield with field offices around the state to serve the communities of Illinois. (See back panel for addresses and phone numbers.) The agency is governed by a Board of Directors comprised of volunteer members from around the state.

ICCS is funded in part by the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS).

"ICCS was the first organization who came out to Royal Lake and offered to help us. ICCS staff have assisted us in organizing and introduced us to a variety of resources and services we didn't know were available.

I thank God for ICCS."

Mary Walker,
Royal Lake #2 Improvement Committee,
Mulberry Grove, IL

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Community Development is our fundamental program and the heart of ICCS. In Community Development, ICCS Community Consultants reach out to even the smallest of Illinois communities. They motivate and support residents in organizing their communities to improve the quality of life for youth and families.

From community to community, the issues involved in improving the quality of life can be quite diverse. Community needs range from improving sewage and water systems to preventing neighborhood crime and developing positive activities for youth. To address these community needs, ICCS Community Consultants assist local neighborhood volunteer leaders in developing grassroot committees of area residents. These committees coordinate a variety of programs and activities to improve their locale. Examples include tutoring, mentoring and self-esteem building programs; parent/youth sporting events; health/safety awareness and prevention classes; youth leadership retreats; community development projects and summer youth employment programs.

ICCS also assists committees funded by Positive Youth Development (PYD) grants awarded by the Illinois Department of Children & Family Services.

The ICCS community development approach works because local residents, the people who know the most about the community, the youth and their problems, are actively involved in finding the solutions.

ICCS Provides Community Residents Assistance With:

- ◆ Identifying Local Leaders
- ◆ Organizing a Community Committee
- ◆ Networking with Other Community Committees
- ◆ Training Committee Members
- ◆ Writing and Tabulating a Community Needs Assessment
- ◆ Formulating Short and Long Range Goals and Objectives
- ◆ Developing and Evaluating Activities
- ◆ Recruiting, Retaining and Recognizing Volunteers
- ◆ Locating Existing Resources
- ◆ Applying for Grants
- ◆ Gaining Publicity
- ◆ Building a Board of Directors



Community Development in Action - Making a Difference

Royal Lake #2 is a small, rural, economically disadvantaged community in Bond County. Marketed as a resort/retirement area in the 1960's, the project was abandoned before sewers, roads or other basic needs were in place.

Over time the community deteriorated, with drugs, alcohol and crime prevalent. Although most residents wanted to improve the neighborhood, their pleading for assistance fell on deaf ears. In 30 years, Royal Lake #2 residents had no one to turn to for help until ICCS staff came in 1991. ICCS assisted Royal Lake residents in all areas of community development, helping them become the Royal Lake #2 Improvement Committee, an incorporated not-for-profit.

The Royal Lake/ICCS partnership has many accomplishments to be proud of. For example, they have obtained a state grant for sewage system planning, instituted a community library, summer food/activity & after-school tutoring programs and have sponsored a multitude of educational and recreational events.

The results of community development are evident; Royal Lake #2 is not the same community it was five years ago. Residents have developed a sense of pride in their community and in themselves. Many youth make honor roll and receive school awards, some received college scholarships. Families are helping and caring for one another, especially the youth, and are determined to continue improving their community.



"On behalf of the Nubian Warriors, their families and the Rockford community, I want to thank ICCS for providing guidance and technical assistance in establishing the Brotherhood Mentoring Program. I am convinced that our success can be directly measured by the help and encouragement provided by the ICCS Regional Administrator."

**Rev. David Seward,
Brotherhood Mentoring Program,
Rockford, IL**

**TOGETHER, WE CAN MAKE A
DIFFERENCE IN YOUR COMMUNITY
TODAY!**

To learn more about how ICCS Community Consultants can help you improve your community, contact the ICCS office nearest you, or call ICCS Headquarters at

1-800-728-1523.

ICCS OFFICES

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Rockford IL 61105
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Aurora office under
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